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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 036721

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY ARA/APU:CEBARTCH:MMG
APPROVED BY ARA :WDROGERS
S/S-O A. OTTO
S-P. BARBIAN
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P 140238Z FEB 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 036721

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, AR

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH ARGENTINE FONMIN

1. AT ARGENTINE EMBASSY LUNCHEON FEBRUARY 12 THE SECRETARY AND ARGENTINE FONMIN QUIJANO DISCUSSED INTER-AMERICAN RELATIONS, U.S.-ARGENTINE BILATERAL RELATIONS (INCLUDING EXPROPRIATION CASES INVOLVING U.S. FIRMS), U.S. RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA, THE SECRETARY'S TRIP TO LATIN AMERICA, AND ARGENTINE-UK TALKS CONCERNING FALKLAND (MALVINAS) ISLANDS (REPORTED SEPTEL ALSO SENT TO LONDON).

2. THE SECRETARY SAID THE MAJOR PROBLEM IN U.S. RELATIONS WITH ARGENTINA IS THE EXPROPRIATION OF US FIRMS. UNLESS THAT IS RESOLVED SOON, ARGENTINA WILL FIND ITSELF IN GREAT TROUBLE WITH OUR DOMESTIC LEGISLATION, QUIJANO SAID HE HAD HAD A LONG TALK WITH ECONOMY MINISTER MONDELLI JUST BEFORE HE LEFT BUENOS AIRES. HE SAID MONDELLI WAS OPTIMISTIC THAT SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS WAS BEING MADE TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM. QUIJANO SAID THAT FIRST OF ALL
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STUDIES HAD TO BE MADE TO DETERMINE THE AMOUNT OF COMPENSA-

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TION TO BE PAID. IN THE CASE OF CHASE MANHATTAN, THE DECISION WAS MADE AND WAS ABOUT TO BE PUT INTO EFFECT WHEN THE GOA DECIDED TO REFER THE MATTER TO CONGRESS FOR RATIFICATION, THAT SHOULD BE COMPLETED IN A FEW DAYS.
3. THE SECRETARY AND QUIJANO AGREED THAT ASIDE FROM THE EXPROPRIATION CASES, RELATIONS BETWEEN ARGENTINA AND THE US ARE EXCELLENT. THE SECRETARY SAID WE HAVE ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO ARGENTINA. IT IS ONE OF THE TWO OR THREE MOST IMPORTANT COUNTRIES IN SOUTH AMERICA. WHEN YOU THINK OF LATIN AMERICA, YOU THINK OF BRAZIL, ARGENTINA AND VENEZUELA. SO WE BELIEVE OUR RELATIONS WITH ARGENTINA ARE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE AND WE ARE WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH ARGENTINA. THE SECRETARY SAID HE STILL EXPECTED TO VISIT ARGENTINA, IN CONNECTION WITH THE OAS MEETING NEXT JUNE IN CHILE.

4. QUIJANO EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF AN ONGOING DIALOGUE BETWEEN LATIN AMERICA AND THE US. HE AND THE SECRETARY AGREED THAT THE TLATELOLCO MEETING IN FEBRUARY 1974 HAD BEEN USEFUL IN PROVIDING A BASIS FOR A CONTINUING EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. QUIJANO SAID IT IS IMPORTANT TO ACHIEVE LATIN AMERICAN UNITY IN ORDER TO DISCUSS SUCH ISSUES AS TRADE, FINANCE AND TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT WITH THE US. HE SAID THE LATIN AMERICAN NATIONS WOULD WELCOME US IDEAS ON HOW THIS COULD BE ACHIEVED. SECRETARY SAID WE HAD FACED SAME PROBLEM WITH THE EUROPEANS. THEY ASKED IF WE FAVORED EUROPEAN UNITY, AND WHEN WE REPLIED THAT WE DID, THEY ASKED US TO BRING IT ABOUT.

5. SECRETARY SAID IT WOULD BE RIDICULOUS FOR US TO TRY TO BRING ABOUT AN ORGANIZATION FROM WHICH WE WOULD BE EXCLUDED AND WHICH WOULD THEN PROCEED TO PUT PRESSURE ON US. HE SAID HE HAD SUPPORTED TLATELOLCO MEETING, BUT ALL OF THE COMMISSIONS THAT HAD BEEN CREATED AS A RESULT WERE USED TO MAKE DEMANDS ON THE US. HE SAID THERE MUST BE AT LEAST A MINIMUM OF RECIPROCITY IN SUCH MATTERS. QUIJANO CONCEDED THAT THERE MUST BE A GIVE AND TAKE, BUT REPEATED THAT LATIN AMERICA IS LOOKING TO US FOR ANSWERS. HE AND SECRETARY AGREED THAT IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO REVIVE THE SPIRIT OF TLATELOLCO AS A BASIS FOR RESUMING THE CONFIDENTIAL

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DIALOGUE. QUIJANO SAID ARGENTINA IS ATTEMPTING TO WORK WITHIN SELA TO EXERT A MODERATING INFLUENCE. HE THOUGHT THE US COULD WORK WITH SELA AND USE IT IN A POSITIVE WAY. HE SAID THE WORST THING THT COULD HAPPEN IS TO TERMINATE THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN LATIN AMERICA AND THE US. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, NATIONALIZATION, MINISTERIAL VISITS, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE036721
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CEBARTCH:MMG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760056-0788
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760247/aaaabpdk.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAY 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <26 OCT 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

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Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH ARGENTINE FONMIN
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, US, AR, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (QUIJANO, RAUL ALBERTO JOSE)
To: BUENOS AIRES
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006